

Bulletin

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

www.aauwfortwayne.org www.indstate.edu/aauw-in www.aauw.org

Thoughts from the President:

By Dr. Bobbie Weikle

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What's the REAL TRUTH?

An examination of historical events in 1858 shows that while accepting the Illinois Republican Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate, Abraham Lincoln said the slavery issue had to be resolved and declared that, **"A house divided against itself cannot stand."** No truer words could have been spoken – then and now. Looking at the divisiveness of today's political horizon, it may seem like we still have a long way to go!



Sculpture Presented at Courthouse - Sojourner Truth's Speech & Reenactment by Great Granddaughter, Barbara Allen June 6, 2021.

We Stand on the Shoulders of Many!

A Woman Who Came Before Us:

One woman who worked hard to bridge the gaps between people of color, women and men has been recognized for her courage and work within our state. A new sculpture of the early antislavery and women's rights activist, Sojourner Truth, was unveiled on June 6th, 2021, in front of the Steuben County Courthouse located in Angola, Indiana. The sculpture was designed by Colorado sculptor, James Haire, a native of Crawfordsville, Indiana.

On June 2, 1861, Truth had come to Steuben County by invitation to give a speech. Entering the state as a woman of color was both a testament to her tenacity as a woman and to her race. Keep in mind that not only was her speech given just a few weeks following the outbreak of the Civil war, but many Hoosiers were not very accepting of people of color. At that time, the Indiana Constitution forbade Blacks from setting foot inside the state. Article 13 of Indiana's 1851 Constitution stated that "No negro or mulatto shall come into or settle in the State, after the adoption of this Constitution." However, the abolitionists were strong in Steuben County.

(continued from page 1)



Sojourner Truth
approximately age 60

Abolition and Women's Rights:

Truth's bravery in coming to Angola to speak against slavery and women's rights during this period of unrest is only a sample of her enduring courage. Like many women of her time, Sojourner Truth, had endured slavery, the lack of women's rights, and poverty since birth. Born to a slave couple who worked in upstate New York, she was given the name of Isabella. As an adult living with her husband, she had given birth to many children and suffered their loss many times. Family members and her own children were sold to other slave owners, taken away, never to be seen again.

Truth finally gained her freedom in 1827 under New York's gradual emancipation law, and took the name of Isabella Van Wagenen, after her last master. Having endured many years of hard labor and mistreatment, in her mid-forties, she decided to give up working in the homes of wealthy people and became a traveling preacher. She also realized

that her name needed to symbolize more about her beliefs. From that point on, she used the name of Sojourner Truth.

Like many other women who became involved in freeing people of color, Truth also realized that the liberation of women would only be gained through expanding our rights – to VOTE. Even though she could neither read nor write, she recognized that the only way people of color and women were going to make progress was to work with others to abolish slavery and strive to gain the right to vote for ALL women. She produced a book about her life with the help of a friend, *"The Narrative of Sojourner Truth."* As a traveling lecturer, she became well-known for her wit and speaking ability and won people's support for women's rights and the antislavery movement. While on tour, she earned money through the sales of her book.

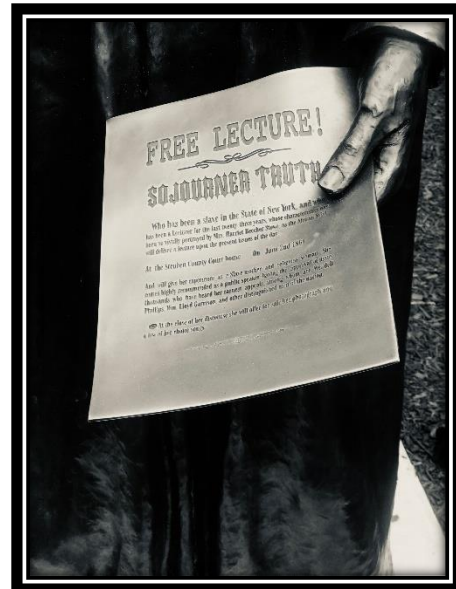
"Ain't I a Woman?"

Truth became well-known for being able to argue for her beliefs. At that time, the superiority of men over women was being championed by many who believed that women were weaker and less intelligent. At a women's rights convention, several men had shared their views and defended the domination of women by men. Seeking permission to speak, she was finally allowed to be introduced to the audience. Being a tall woman of stature and having a deep voice that has been described as "rolling thunder", she commanded the attention of the audience. Determined to share her views, Truth said, "Well, children," starting out in a low soft voice... "[w]here there is so much racket, there must be something out of kilter. That something, [is] the domination of women and blacks by white men. The supporters of this unequal order "will be in a fix pretty soon, thanks to the efforts of abolitionists and feminists." Then in a loud voice, opposing the views that women were too weak, she asked "how that could be because no one had ever helped her into a carriage, or carried her over a mud puddle, or ever given her the best place anywhere" (Krass, p. 17).

(continued page 3)

“Ain’t I a Woman?” (continued from page 2)

Rising to her full stature, Truth thundered to the crowd, “And ain’t I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm!” At that moment, she rolled her sleeve up to show her arms were strong and muscular. “I have plowed, and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me,” she said. “And ain’t I a woman?” She had worked as hard as any man, nursed her babies and carried them on her back while laboring under all types of conditions. (Krass, 1988, p. 16-17).

**Reenactment in Angola, Indiana:**

The visits and public speeches made by Truth in northeastern Indiana were not without risk. She was threatened and had to be protected by armed members of the Scott Township Home Guard. However, although several charges were made against her, she was never convicted for the crime of entering the state.

Along with unveiling the sculpture, a reenactment of Sojourner Truth’s visit to Angola was given by Barbara Allen, who portrayed her sixth great-grandmother. In her presentation, Ms. Allen did an excellent job of portraying Truth’s ‘resolve’ and demonstrated how much she has personally felt Truth’s resolve flowing through her own veins. The audience was moved by her performance and there was a sense of coming together in appreciation for the courage and hard work of her great grandmother. Barbara has also conveyed the strength and courage of her great grandmother Truth in her children’s book, *“Remembering Great Grandma.”*

The statue of Truth was made possible through the *Preserving Women’s Legacy Grant* that was awarded by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and Indiana Humanities and through the efforts of many business and public donations. The Downtown Angola Coalition hosted the ceremony which featured the reenactment commemorating the June 2, 1861, speech that Truth gave outside the County Courthouse in Angola. The Coalition, an affiliate of ‘Mainstreet’, was one of three Indiana entities to receive Preserving Women’s Legacy Grants in 2020 to help commemorate the **100th anniversary of women’s suffrage.**

References:

Journal Gazette, (6/16/21). “Today in History” section, p. 4D.

Krass, P. (1988). *Sojourner Truth: Antislavery Activist*, Chelsea House Publishers, New York.

Murphy, L. G. (2011). *Sojourner Truth: A Biography*, Greenwood Publishers, Santa Barbara, CA.

Road Trip to See Sojourner Truth’s Sculpture

Any AAUW member who is interested in a short trip to Angola, IN to see the new sculpture of Sojourner Truth and stopping for a bite to eat, please contact Bobbie Weikle at drbjweikle@comcast.net. If we have enough interest, we could rent a van!

Membership

NOW

*is the best time to Recruit
New AAUW Members!*

*Every AAUW member is a
part of the membership
team. Experience tells us
that new members who
are **recruited by our own**
Branch members become
active and **stay** in AAUW.*

Save the Dates!

**Mark your
Calendar!**

Membership Matters

Co-Director of Membership

Amy Lehman, amylynnl@comcast.net or 260-705-6155

Stephanie Bourne, slbourne1@gmail.com or 260-515-3290

Membership Information Changes

Carolyn Hurley – new phone number 260-210-3272

The 2021-2022 is currently in production! If you have changes to your information, please contact Theresa Brady (tbrady822@gmail.com or 262-853-8739) to make sure your information is current when the book is completed in August.

Branch Program

Co-Directors of Program

Linda Manning, tmlm4733@gmail.com or 260-403-1913

Kayla Crecelius, kmritchie710@gmail.com or 219-617-3593

AAUW Fall Branch Meeting

October 9, 2021 – 10:00 am to noon

Allen County Public Library in Rooms A, B, & C

The topic will be “All Things Books”. Our guest speaker will be Melinda Haines, the new Executive Director for the Literacy Alliance of Fort Wayne. Please plan to bring your interesting gently used hardback or paperback book(s) which will be offered to members during a silent auction. A box lunch will be offered, and more information will be forthcoming.

Branch Board Meetings

All Board meetings will be at the Allen County Public Library, Room A, downtown location at 6:00 pm

September 13, 2021

February 7, 2022

November 1, 2021

April 4, 2022

June 6, 2022

AAUW Trust

By Barb Kanning, outgoing AAUW Trust Chair

barbkanning@gmail.com or (260) 432-5228

On Friday, June 4th our Trust Board of Directors met for the end of our fiscal year business. This included welcoming the three new Board officers and choosing all officer positions for 2021-2022.

This is your new Board of Directors, effective July 1, 2021, and their positions:

Chair:	Margy Schimmel	margy.schimmel@yahoo.com	260-747-5078
Vice-Chair:	Susan Holleran	susanwebsterholleran@gmail.com	260-417-0944
Treasurer:	Cheryl Mathews	cmathews167@gmail.com	260-483-8733
Secretary:	Monette King	edwar94470@aol.com	260-414-3916
Historian:	Carol Isaacs	isaacscb@gmail.com	260-485-7931
Trustee:	TBD		
Parliamentarian:	Bobbie Weikle, Branch President	drbjweikle@comcast.net	260-414-4575

Also, an honorary annual donation from our Fort Wayne Branch in memory of deceased members this past year was made the Trust Capital Contributions.

Do you have special occasions that would allow a donation to the Trust? This is a wonderful way to honor ANY of our Branch members, family, friends, and anyone who shares our AAUW mission.

Question? Contact our new Chair, Margy Schimmel or any Trust Board member listed above. The more we add to our capital funds, the more dollars we are able to grant each spring!

Interest Groups

Regular group meetings may not be held due to Coronavirus health precautions.

Please check with your group leader to learn if events will be held.

Current Literature I

September 7 – Decide on Books for 2021-22

6-8 pm in the Globe Room at the downtown Library

Current Literature II

July 27 – American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

Aug 21 – The Chilbury Ladies Choir by Jennifer Ryan

Grant Applications

accepted

January 1 through February 28.

The Grant Application Form and instructions for applying may be found on the web site

at: <http://aauwfortwayne.org>.

Standing on the Shoulders of Many Women

by Andrea Tarbet

When I think of women's history, I envision a pyramid – one made of millions of women from different backgrounds, different time periods, standing on each other's shoulders to receive and give strength. There are the people many of us know, like Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, Mother Teresa, Billie Jean King, Anne Frank, Kamala Harris. Then there are the women on whose shoulders I've personally had the privilege of standing, like Barbara, whose family ridiculed her father for financially helping her attend college in the 1960s, because what does woman need with a degree? She earned a master's degree, too, and supported her family alone when her husband died young. Kim, who pumped breast milk for her children at work in a factory where men asked her why she needed a private space and couldn't just use the restroom. Marge, who got her doctorate in the 1950s and was the first female department head at Purdue Fort Wayne. Sarah, who came out as a lesbian in the 1990s, marched in Gay Pride parades, and has built a life with her partner for twenty-three years.

In this pyramid, many AAUW women have provided me with much support over the years. As you read this, you may have recognized some of the issues mentioned above from your own life. **You have paved the way for others** and me in ways we may not even see. Most progress for rights and justice is hard won, and almost never achieved without someone standing up to discrimination and injustice. That standing up is a lot easier when you are standing on others' shoulders. Thank you for that strength.

The next step is to ask ourselves, who is standing on my shoulders? Who is standing on all of our shoulders to see that women have equal opportunities? How do we continue building the pyramid of support and progress?

I am proud to be a part of our AAUW, who continues to push for progress with things like SmartStart, WorkStart, NCCWSL and our own branch's Trust. The future is exciting as we continue to build our pyramid of women!

About the Author:

Andrea is wrapping up four years on the Trust as Vice Chair, and in the past has served the branch as Newsletter Chair and Treasurer and has also been on the Indiana State AAUW board as Public Policy Chair. She enjoys being in the Current Lit I book group along with her mom, Barb Kanning. In 2009 the branch awarded her Woman of the Year and this past March, the Eleanor Roosevelt Award. She cherishes these awards because of the fantastic group of women that gave them. She currently works in financial services at Northwestern Mutual.



In Memoriam



Tucker

Sandra Tucker passed away on June 26, 2021. Her complete obituary can be found at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/fortwayne/name/sandra-tucker-obituary?pid=199219552>

Memories of Sandra Tucker:

Sandy Tucker was a kind, gentle, smart person. I've known her over the past 30 years, as a fellow member of Current Literature II book discussion group. Sandy served as discussion leader and hostess many times and always had insights and astute observations to add to our book reviews. She had a wealth of experience in the realm of education and was always generous in sharing that experience. She will be greatly missed.

By Cheryl Mathews

AAUW Trust Board Secretary

Sandra Tucker and I met as teachers at Concordia Lutheran High School. We developed a lasting friendship. Sandra loved to read, so I invited her to visit the Current Literature II group. She enjoyed the group and then became an active member of the Branch. Sandra served one term as recording secretary of the Executive Board. She also served on various committees. This year Sandra had been elected to serve on the Branch Trust Board. Sandra was willing to give of her time and talents.

I will miss you my AAUW friend!

Ruth Von Deylen



LaBrash

Connie LaBrash passed away on June 26, 2021. Her obituary can be found at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/fortwayne/name/connie-labrash-obituary?pid=199232392>

In Memory of Connie M. LaBrash

It is with sadness that I write about the death of our longtime Branch member and Branch Elected Officer, Connie Labrash, who passed away on June 26, 2021. She was a teacher, colleague and active AAUW cohort until her health prohibited her participation. Connie served our Branch well as Branch Treasurer for several terms and especially our Branch Member Records Chair for many years. She chaired the original Afternoon Book Group, was a member of an AAUW Bridge group, and helped many years with our Annual Book Sale.

Connie and I taught and worked closely together at Woodside Middle School where she was a Social Studies team leader and helped develop a comprehensive research project for seventh graders. This later became an SACS curriculum benchmark. She leaves behind many wonderful memories with her five children; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and one sister. Longtime AAUW members will miss her dedication to our mission and her help to carry it forward.

By Barb Kanning

If you would like to make a memorial gift to our AAUW Fort Wayne Trust, please designate the check to: AAUW Fort Wayne Trust and send it to: Barb Kanning - 1573 Tallgrass Trail, Fort Wayne, IN 46804.

NOTICEHard Copy of the Newsletter or Email Copy of the Newsletter?

Recently, we learned that the former printing services AAUW has been using for many years (when IPFW was still in business) has been closed. The Purdue University-Lafayette main campus has taken over the printing services for the college. Unfortunately, this means an end to our being able to utilize their printing services.

The costs for printing are being compared with various other services in the city, but the costs will undoubtedly be more expensive. We need to know if you wish to continue getting the **AAUW "Bulletin"** (newsletter) via a printed paper copy by mail or if you wish to switch to an emailed copy permanently. Some of our members prefer to get a printed paper copy by mail and some members do not have an email address.

Please respond by August 20 via email or mail your choice for how to receive the newsletter. If we don't hear from you and we have an email address for you, we will switch over to sending your copy via email to save on postage and printing. For those who don't have email, we will continue to send a copy through the mail.

**Respond to Poll to Receive Email or Paper Copy of the AAUW Newsletter**

I want an **email** copy of the newsletter sent to my **email** address.

Name: _____ Confirm email address: _____

I want to receive a printed, paper copy of the newsletter by regular USPS mail.

Name: _____ Confirm email address: _____

Return to Bobbie Weikle

Via USPS mail to 2424 Foxchase Run, Ft. Wayne, IN 46825

or

via email to drbjweikle@comcast.net

AAUW FORT WAYNE BRANCH 2021-2022 DUES RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____

Please select your dues category:

- REGULAR\$ **87.00** = National AAUW \$62.00 + State \$7.00 + Branch \$18.00
- PAID LIFE MEMBER.....\$ **25.00** = State \$7.00 + Branch \$18.00
- STUDENT\$ **21.00** = National \$19.00 + Branch \$ 2.00
- HONORARY LIFE.....\$ **0** ****Please consider a donation for Branch expenditures.**

(Note that \$59 of national dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.)

I am also enclosing a National AAUW Fund Donation \$ _____

Donations require separate checks.

Please write the fund name on the memo line. Examples are: AAUW Funds or AAUW LAF

Do you have corrections/changes for the 2021-22 Yearbook? YES NO

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Additional Degree(s): _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Make your renewal check **Payable to** AAUW Fort Wayne Branch
and **MAIL** it with this **completed form** to:

Eileen Fraser 9726 Silver Shore CT Fort Wayne, IN 46804

We always WELCOME new members to AAUW!

If you know of perspective members, please contact our membership directors to send a packet of information.

Amy Lehman	amylynnl@comcast.net	(260) 705-6155
Stephanie Bourne	slbourne1@gmail.com	(260) 515-3290

Bulletin Editor
c/o 7209 Tanbark Lane
Fort Wayne, IN 46835

Affix Address Label here

AAUW Fort Wayne IN Branch 2021-22 Board of Directors

President: Dr. Bobbie Weikle
Co-Directors of Program: Linda Manning/Kayla Crecelius
Co-Directors of Membership: Amy Lehman/Stephanie Bourne
Recording Secretary: Terri Stumpf
Corresponding Secretary: Theresa Brady
Director of Finance: Margy Schimmel

AAUW Fort Wayne IN 2021-22 Branch Committees

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Director of Diversity and International Relations: Open
Director of Public Policy: Open
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College/University Liaison: Dr. Gloria Shamanoff
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Nominating Committee Convener: Jane Anderson, Ruth Von Deylen
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Reservations: Eileen Fraser
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